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To THE ALTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Alton, Hants.

May, 1943.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is my Report on this District for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

The area of the District is (in acres)	...	65,526.
The population 1931 census ...	...	20,455.
do (estimated 1942) ...	...	19,100.
The number of inhabited houses is	...	5,113.
The Rateable value is	...	£131,113.
The sum represented by a penny rate is		£529.

According to figures supplied to me by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, the births and deaths are as follows;-

Live Births	Legitimate Males	199	Total: 377.
	" Females	155	
	Illegitimate Males	8	
	" Females	15	

Birth Rate: 19.5

Deaths The total number of deaths of persons belonging to this district was 242, of these 86 died outside my district.

Death Rate 12.6 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from perperal causes	1
Deaths of infants under one year ...	1
Deaths from cancer	22
" measles	0
" whooping cough	0
" diarrhoea	1

Deaths over 70 years of age numbered 130, of these 58 were over 80 and 6 were over 90 years of age.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Herriard & Lasham Water Company have have further extended their supplies into the Parish of Medstead, otherwise no alteration worthy of note has taken place during the year regarding water supplies.

Co-operation with adjoining districts and Water Companies has resulted in the formation of Mutual Support Schemes to ensure maintenance of supplies following damage to water supplies by enemy action, and arrangements have been made, regarding supplies in the event of invasion.

Drainage and Sewage.

No change has taken place during the year regarding existing or contemplated schemes.

A scheme of Mutual Support has been arranged in co-operation with adjoining authorities.

Rivers and Streams.

Routine inspections are being carried out to prevent pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

There has been no change affecting closet accommodation throughout the district during the year.

Scavenging and Salvage.

All Scavenging Contracts, except those for the collection of night soil and a fortnightly collection of wet refuse from defined areas in one Parish, were terminated on the introduction of a system of salvage collection covering the whole district.
A house to house collection of salvage is carried out once monthly throughout the whole area and fortnightly in two parishes. The Collections are carried out by the Council's own employees and vehicles.

Hop-picker's Accommodation.

Necessary routine inspections have been maintained. No special action was found to be necessary during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

As far as circumstances have permitted routine inspections have been maintained throughout the district. Complaints have been dealt with, and abatement enforced.

Special attention has been given to drainage difficulties which naturally arose as a result of military occupation of properties and the occupation of dwellinghouses to full capacity by civilian evacuees, which led to overloading of drainage systems originally designed for a normal number of occupants.

Camping Sites.

Occupation of sites has been considerably reduced.

Government Evacuation Scheme.

The district is being used extensively for billeting of civilian evacuees both under the private arrangement scheme and for the receiption of organised groups from bombed areas; London, Portsmouth, and Southampton.

Housing Acts.

Reconditioning of cottages under the Housing Rural Workers Act is proceeding.

Necessary action is being taken to record particulars of properties considered unfit for human occupation but no demolitions have been carried out during the year.

Overcrowding occasionally occurs, principally as a result of billeting under the private arrangement scheme, but abatement has been brought about, without undue delay.

Milk Supply.
Dairies and Cowsheds.

Very little change has taken place during the year regarding the number of cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk. Routine inspections were re-introduced towards the end of the year and are continuing.

Meat and Other Foods.

Under permits, issued by the Food Officer, the release of parts of carcases of home reared pigs for sale has led to the re-introduction of slaughtering. Necessary inspections are carried out as required for this purpose.

In connection with condemned foodstuffs co-operation with the Ministry of Food Salvage Officers has led to salvage and use of the foodstuffs for animal feeding or other purposes.

Treatment and Disposal of Foodstuffs Contaminated by Gas.

The necessary squad for this purpose has been recruited and trained and a Decontamination Station set up at Alton for the joint use by the Alton Urban and Rural Districts.

Military Billeting.

Every opportunity has been taken to co-operate with the Military Authorities regarding the suitability of sanitary arrangements in connection with the billeting of troops throughout the area.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

No outbreak of infectious disease occurred during the year.

There were scattered cases of scarlet fever throughout the District. Prompt isolation checked any chance of an outbreak.

There were only two cases of diphtheria among children in the district and these had not been innoculated.

Between 1st July and 31st December, 1942, 951 children were innunized against diphtheria.

In some schools 100% are immunized. In the others 99% have been done.

	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet fever ...	30	30	-
Diphtheria ...	4	4	1
Enteric Fever ...	-	0	-
Puerperal Pyrexin	1	1	-
Pneumonia	4	1	3

Age Groups	3	4	5	10	15	20	35.
Scarlet fever ...	4	-	13	4	2	7	-
Diphtheria ...	-	1	-	-	1	-	2

Cancer.

There were twenty two deaths from cancer - 10 males and 12 females.

Age Distribution.	Males	Females.
50	4	2
60	3	3
70	3	7

Prevention of Blindness.

No cases of ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases. Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory		Deaths. Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	2	3	-	-	2	1
5.	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
15.	1	4	-	1	1	1	-	-
25.	-	3	-	2	2	2	-	-
35.	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1
45.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	3.	9.	3.	9.	3.	4.	2.	2.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of Public Health Act, 1925.

Scabies.

189 cases were treated during the year. The patients were sent to the Isolation Hospital where treatment was kindly undertaken by members of the Red Cross Society. Patients go home on the same day and come in for a second treatment a few days later. All the bedding is stored at the Isolation Hospital, free transport being provided by the Council. These arrangements have worked satisfactorily and great credit is due to the members of the Red Cross who have assisted in this task.

Conclusion.

In conclusion I should like to add that your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A.E. Bennett, and his staff have rendered very valuable services during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

SGD. H. CURRER WILLIAMS.

Medical Officer of Health.